

## Memorandum

To: All Fair CEO's  
Livestock Staff

Date: April 28, 2004

Ref: F2004-11

Place: Sacramento

Telephone: (916) 263-2952



From: Department of Food and Agriculture – Bruce Lim, Acting Director  
Division of Fairs and Expositions  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: Amended Brucellosis Testing of Swine Requirements

Brucellosis testing requirements for exhibition breeding swine in California have been amended. **The original negative brucellosis test requirement within 30 days prior to exhibition has been extended to within 60 days prior to exhibition.** Swine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that may infect animals and humans, was diagnosed in a small herd in the Central Valley of California in December 2003. The investigation into the infected herd is now 80% complete. To date, no evidence of any spread of brucellosis in California has been found.

We have attached a copy of the AHFSS letter, Notice of Required Action Pursuant to Quarantine, and a Swine Brucellosis Investigation in California fact sheet for your review and use.

Effective today and until further notification, all breeding swine to be exhibited in California must have a negative official brucellosis test finding within 60 days prior to being exhibited. Exhibitors of breeding swine must have their veterinarian pull the appropriate sample for testing. The AHFSS Laboratory System will process the test on the sample(s) at no charge (see attached letter).

We recognize the challenges this requirement presents as the fair season has already begun and appreciate your efforts to ensure a positive educational experience this year for the breeding swine exhibitors.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please call Tommie Jo Dale of my staff at 916-263-2948 or me directly at 916-263-2952. In addition, Steve Weaver, CEO of Sacramento County Fair and President of the California Pork Producers Association, may be contacted should you have questions.

Attachments

# Memorandum

**To :** Bruce Lim, Acting Director  
Fairs and Expositions

**Date:** April 22, 2004

**Place:** Sacramento

**Telephone:** (916) 651-6870

**From :** Department of Food and Agriculture - Richard E. Breitmeyer, DVM, MPVM  
State Veterinarian, Executive Office

**Subject: BRUCELLOSIS TESTING OF SWINE - AMENDED**

Swine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that may infect animals and humans, was diagnosed in a small swine herd in the Central Valley of California in December 2003. The investigation into the infected herd is now 80% complete. To date, no evidence of any spread of brucellosis in California has been found.

Based on these findings, we are amending the brucellosis test requirement on breeding swine for exhibition. A negative official brucellosis test on all breeding swine destined for exhibition in California will be extended to within 60 days prior to the exhibition.

The California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System will run the tests on these animals at no charge to the exhibitor/owner.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Randy Anderson at (209) 988-1421 or the Animal Health Branch District Supervisor in your area:

Redding:	Dr. Charles Palmer	530-225-2140
Modesto:	Dr. David Willoughby	209-491-9350
Tulare:	Dr. Jeff Davidson	559-685-3500
Ontario:	Dr. David Kerr	909-947-4462

Enclosure: Quarantine Notice

cc: Dr. Randy Anderson, Animal Health Branch, Staff Veterinarian  
Dr. Alex Ardans, Director, CAHFS  
Dr. Paul Ugstad, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA/APHIS/VS  
District Supervisors

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Animal Health and Food Safety Services

HQ-0006a

1220 N Street, Room A-114  
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone: (916) 654-0881  
Facsimile: (916) 653-4249

AMENDED NOTICE OF REQUIRED ACTION PURSUANT TO QUARANTINE

Owner: Owners of Swine.

Address: Multiple

You are hereby notified that the State Veterinarian has imposed a Quarantine pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562 on the following population of animals or animal product:

Description of Population of Animals or Animal Product: Breeding swine

Present location: In California

Reason for Quarantine:

- ☒ This Quarantine is imposed because the population of animals or animal product described above may be infected or infested, has been exposed to a condition that could transmit an illness that could kill or seriously damage other animals or humans, or may be at risk for such exposure.

Condition: Swine Brucellosis

- ☐ This Quarantine is imposed in the circumstances of natural disaster, whether occurring or imminent, or a declared emergency.

Required Action: Pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562 and Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 1301 et seq., you are required to:

- ☐ Hold the population of animals or animal product described above on the premises where it is now located.
- ☐ Move the population of animals or animal product described above from the present location to \_\_\_\_\_ no later than \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
The method of movement shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Cease all efforts to cause the population of animals or animal product described above to enter the State of California.
- ☐ Segregate the population of animals or animal product described above from other animals or products no later than \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
The method of segregation shall be: \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Isolate the population of animals or animal product described above no later than \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
The method of isolation shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ Treat the population of animals or animal product described above no later than \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
The method of treatment shall be: All breeding swine destined for exhibition in California require a negative official brucellosis test within 60 days prior to the exhibition.
- ☐ Destroy and dispose of the population of animals or animal product described above. Destruction shall take place no later than \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
The method of destruction shall be \_\_\_\_\_.  
The method of disposal after destruction shall be \_\_\_\_\_ and disposal shall be completed no later than \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. / p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.

The State Veterinarian may modify the action(s) required in this Notice. Failure to comply with this Notice of Required Action is a violation of Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 1301.8 and will result in the Department of Food and Agriculture pursuing appropriate remedies, including but not limited to law enforcement involvement, and may interfere with your receiving indemnity payments to which you might be entitled.

Notice issued by: Thad E. Breitung Title: State Veterinarian Date: April 22, 2004 Time: 5:00 pm

Notice served by: Thad E. Breitung Title: State Veterinarian Date: April 22, 2004 Time: 5:00 pm

Notice received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS

You may appeal the imposition of the Quarantine in an informal hearing process, pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 1301.3, by contacting the Animal Health and Food Safety Services, 1220 N Street, Room A-114, Sacramento, CA 95814, telephone (916) 654-0881, facsimile (916) 653-4249, and requesting an informal hearing. **Unless the box below is checked, your request for a hearing must be received within 72 hours of service of this notice.**

- ☐ YOUR REQUEST FOR A HEARING MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. / P.M. ON \_\_\_\_\_.



# Swine Brucellosis Investigation in California

## Information for Swine Owners



January 2004

**Status:** California was Certified Free (Stage 3) in the National Swine Brucellosis Eradication Program in 1980. Only four states that are not classified as Free - TX, AR, FL, and LA.

### California Case Investigation Timeline:

- 11/4/03 - Blood samples from 3 boars killed in Stanislaus County indicated brucellosis infection.
- 11/18/03 - Blood samples from 2 sows killed in Fresno County indicated brucellosis infection.
- 12/3/03 - Both sets of animals traced to a small swine herd in Tulare County. Herd quarantined.
- 12/9/03 - Blood sample herd - results indicated an infected herd.
- 12/10/03 - Develop herd plan - necropsy the sows and boars; incinerate their carcasses; market feeder pigs directly to local slaughter markets after informing USDA; start traceback.
- 12/15/03 - Funds to depopulate the sows and boars approved by USDA.
- 12/18/03 - Complete depopulation of sows and boars. Necropsy revealed lesions compatible with brucellosis. Carcasses incinerated.
- 12/18/03 - State public health and Tulare, Fresno and Stanislaus County health officials notified.
- 1/14/04 - Notice requiring a negative official brucellosis test within 30 days on all breeding swine destined for exhibition in California.
- 1/28/04 - Tests confirmed infected herd.

### Future Plans:

- Trace all swine moving into and out of the herd over the last 3 years.
- Test all herds from which sows and boars were purchased into the infected herd.
- Restrict exposed animals - quarantine and move them under permit to slaughter.

### Impact of Case on California:

If a second infected herd is detected, California may lose its swine brucellosis Free status, requiring a negative official brucellosis test before breeding swine leave the state. The producer must pay for the testing and the costs of delayed movement.

### Swine Brucellosis Information:

**Cause:** Bacteria *Brucella suis*.

**Signs:** Abortions, weak piglets, infertility, lack of sexual drive and orchitis in boars, lameness, arthritis, abscesses, and posterior paralysis. Some infected pigs show no signs.

**Organs Affected:** Male and female reproductive tract, mammary glands, bones, joints and soft tissues. The organism may be in the blood stream for prolonged periods.

**Spread:** Highly contagious sexually transmitted disease. Usually introduced into a herd in an infected animal. Disease spreads in semen during breeding, and by ingesting, inhaling, or eye contact with bacteria in milk, reproductive fluids, placenta, aborted fetuses, and urine.

**Other Animals Affected:** Feral swine may be a disease reservoir. Cattle, humans, dogs, other domestic animals and rodents may be affected.

**Incubation:** Variable, average 14-21 days, range 3-120 days.

**Surveillance:** Blood samples are collected from all mature swine at slaughter. Surveillance is enhanced by movement, show, and diagnostic tests.

**Disease Confirmation:** Tissue culture. Blood testing is very effective in identifying infected herds but the tests are not precise on individual animals.

**Case Options:** Depopulation, with owner indemnification, is the best way to control swine brucellosis. Test and slaughter plans may be used but are often ineffective because infected pigs may show no signs, may test negative, and are a threat to human health. There is no approved vaccine.

**Human Health:** Swine brucellosis is a significant human health hazard, causing serious illness known as "undulant fever". Disease spreads to people from handling newborn piglets, aborted fetuses, fetal membranes and during slaughtering or processing infected pigs. Infection occurs via the respiratory tract, oral route, conjunctivae, or through minor skin abrasions. Disease does not spread person to person. Contact your medical provider or local health department for more information.